

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method of erecting a utility pole ~~poles~~ comprising the steps of:  
fabricating a plurality of tubular sections of utility poles each having at least a portion tapered;

the diameter of at least one of said plurality of tubular sections being larger than the diameter of another;

bringing the at least one of said plurality of tubular sections and the another of said plurality of tubular sections to a site for erection;

pulling the at least one and the another tubular sections together with an apparatus that provides short repeated pulling strokes prior to erecting the utility pole ~~without manually adjusting said apparatus between strikes~~; and

erecting the utility pole.

2. (currently amended) A method in accordance with ~~claim~~ claim 1 in which the step of pulling the tubular sections together comprises the steps of:

attaching at least one hydraulic cylinder having a piston rod to at least a first section of a ~~the~~ utility pole;

attaching a bracket to a second section of the utility pole;

connecting the piston rod of the cylinder to an arm;

connecting the arm to the bracket;

pulling the first and second sections together by activating the hydraulic cylinder to change the position of said arm; ~~and~~

~~— resetting a position of said arm during one of an extension and retraction of said piston rod.~~

3. (original) A method in accordance with claim 2 further including the step of resetting said arm.

4. (original) A method in accordance with claim 3 in which the step of resetting includes the step of moving said arm away from a gripping member and dropping it onto the gripping member.

5. (currently amended) A method of pulling sections of a utility poles pole together prior to erecting the utility pole, comprising the steps of:

attaching an apparatus that provides short repeated pulling strokes to a first section;

attaching a bracket to a second section;

connecting the apparatus that provides repeated pulling strokes to the bracket, whereby the first and second sections are pulled together while the first and second sections are horizontal[;]  
when the apparatus is performing a pulling stroke; and

resetting the apparatus ~~without manually adjusting said apparatus~~ between pulling strokes.

6. (currently amended) A method in accordance with claim 5 in which the step of pulling the ~~tubular~~ sections together comprises the steps of:

attaching at least one hydraulic cylinder having a piston rod to at least a first section of [a]  
the utility pole;

attaching [a] the bracket to [a] the second section of utility pole;

connecting the piston rod of the cylinder to an arm;

connecting the arm to the bracket;

pulling the first and second sections together by activating the hydraulic cylinder to change  
the position of said arm; ~~and~~

~~—resetting a position of said arm during one of an extension and retraction of said piston rod.~~

7. (original) A method in accordance with claim 6 further including the step of resetting said  
arm.

8. (original) A method in accordance with claim 7 in which the step of resetting includes  
the step of moving said arm away from a gripping member and dropping it onto the gripping  
member.

9. (currently amended) A method of erecting a utility pole comprising the steps of:  
fabricating tubular sections;  
bringing the tubular sections to a site for erecting the ~~telephone~~ utility pole;  
pulling the sections together with short repeated strokes by manually adjusting the position  
of a flexible member connecting a tug bracket and a pull arm; and  
erecting the utility pole.

10. (currently amended) A method in accordance with claim 9 in which a first location on  
the flexible member is attached to one tubular section at one end and has its other end a plurality  
of other ~~adapted to be connected at different~~ locations on the flexible member include gripping  
means for gripping a second tubular section.

11. (currently amended) Apparatus for pulling two at least partly tubular sections of a utility  
~~poles~~ pole together comprising:

a hydraulic pump;

at least one hydraulic cylinder having a piston connected to a first at least partly tubular  
section and having a piston rod;

at least one bracket;

at least one movable connecting member ~~arm~~;

said at least one movable connecting member ~~arm~~ being connected at one end location on  
the one movable connecting member to a the piston rod of said at least one hydraulic cylinder and  
at ~~the other end~~ any of a plurality of other locations on the movable connecting member to [the] said  
at least one bracket whereby the sections may be pulled together;

said at least one bracket including means for fastening the at least one bracket to one of said  
at least partly tubular sections.

12. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 11 in which at least one of said bracket and  
~~arm~~ movable connecting member has a plurality of cam surfaces adapted to move the ~~tug arm~~ at  
least one movable connecting member to a height where it can clear the ~~tug~~ bracket; ~~and a plurality~~

of said movable connecting member including at least one gripping means for connecting to said bracket on a retraction stroke of said hydraulic cylinder.

13. (currently amended) Apparatus for pulling two sections of a utility pole together comprising:

a hydraulic pump;

a hydraulic cylinder;

a tug bracket;

said tug bracket including means for fastening the tug bracket to one of said two sections;

a flexible member having one end connected to the tug bracket and the other end connected to a piston of the hydraulic cylinder;

the length of said flexible member between the piston and the tug bracket being adjustable, whereby on an extension stroke, the flexible member ~~is~~ ~~can be~~ adjusted and on a retraction stroke, the sections are pulled together.

14. (new) A method in accordance with claim 1 in which the step of pulling the at least one and the another tubular sections together comprises the steps of:

attaching at least one hydraulic cylinder having a piston rod to at least a first section of the utility pole;

attaching a bracket to a second section of the utility pole;

connecting the piston rod of the cylinder to a flexible member;

connecting the flexible member to the bracket; and

pulling the first and second sections together by activating the hydraulic cylinder to change the position of said flexible member.

15. (new) A method in accordance with claim 3 in which the step of resetting said arm comprises the step of resetting said arm without manually adjusting said apparatus between strokes.

16. (new) A method in accordance with claim 5 in which the step of resetting the apparatus comprises the step of automatically resetting a position with respect to said bracket of an arm that is connected to move with a piston rod during one of an extension and retraction of the piston rod between strokes without manually adjusting said apparatus .